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# CH 610 The English Reformation

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# **THE ENGLISH REFORMATION CH610**

**Kenneth J. Collins, Professor**

## 1. Course Description and Objectives:

The course will explore the history and theology of the English church during its Reformation of the sixteenth century. In terms of methodology, there will be a critical examination of the primary source materials of this movement. Such materials will include regal injunctions, acts of Parliament, theological treatises, creeds, prayers, homilies as well as liturgies. This evidence, important in many ways, will then be assessed in light of the interpretations of key secondary literature and in terms of class lectures. Moreover, attention will be paid to historiographical considerations with an eye to the plausibility of diverse readings of English ecclesiastical history. Such an approach should aid students in thinking their way to knowledge and in drawing connections for practical applications.

## 2. General Goals

Upon completion of the course successful students will be able to do all of the following:

- 1) Identify the major doctrinal themes in the theology of the English Reformers, especially that of Cranmer, and explore their handling, in particular, of the issues of nature and grace, justification and sanctification.
- 2) Evidence an awareness of historiographical concerns in the interpretation of Anglican theology, especially in terms of narrow, limited or unfair (biased) perspectives
- 3) Explore the interplay between religion and culture especially in terms of the political developments of the Tudor monarchies.
- 4) Display an extensive knowledge of the theological distinctions and nuances employed by Anglican Reformers in the crafting of a “via media.”
- 5) Demonstrate an understanding of the continuing significance of Anglican theology.
- 6) Conceive one's calling as a Methodist (or other kind of ) minister of the gospel in light of the history and contribution of the English Reformation to the Universal Church
- 7) Articulate the relevance of Anglican distinctiveness for effective pastoral ministry today

## 3. Texts:

Bray, Gerald, ed., *Documents of the English Reformation*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994.

Dickens, A.G., *The English Reformation*, New York: Schocken Books, 1964.

Haigh, Christopher, *English Reformations: Religion, Politics, and Society under the Tudors*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1993.

Ridley, Jasper, *Bloody Mary's Martyrs: The Story of England's Terror*, New York: Carroll & Graf, 2001

#### 4. Topical Outline

##### I. Introduction

##### II. Precursors to the English Reformation

- A) The Rise of Lollardy
- B) Christian Humanism
- C) William Tyndale

##### III. Erastianism and Anticlericalism

- A) The Growth of Erastianism
- B) Tensions between Church and State
- C ) Parliament

##### IV. The Henrician Reformation

- A) The Rise of Thomas Cromwell
- B) The Henrician Statutes
- C) Early English Bibles
- D) The Dissolution of the Monasteries

##### V. Cranmer's Reformation: The Reign of Edward VI

- A) Protector Somerset
- B) The Edwardian Injunctions
- C) The Act of Uniformity
- D) The First Prayer Book and the Rebellions
- E) Northumberland's Rise
- F) The Second Prayer Book
- G) The Articles of Religion

##### VI. Marian Reaction

- A) The Marian Injunctions
- B) The Martyrs

- C) The Protestant Underground
- D) Failure of the Reaction

#### VII. The Elizabethan Reformation

- A) The Exiles
- B) The Act of Supremacy
- C) The Act of Uniformity
- D) The Elizabethan Injunctions

### 5. Course Procedures

Competency in this course will consist in satisfying the following criteria:

A. Two examinations will be given during the semester: a mid-term and a final. These essay exams will not only include the designated reading material but will also focus on class discussions. This component will constitute 50% of the grade.

B. It is imperative that students attend class on a regular basis. Absenteeism (missing more than 2 classes) will result in grade reduction. Class participation, attendance, and completion of the assigned readings will count as 20% of the grade.

C. Students, in consultation with the professor, must prepare a 15-20 page paper on a topic of their choice with respect to the history and theology of the English Reformation. This paper must be coherent, clear, and penetrating in its discussion. It should, therefore, be backed by considerable research and should evidence a competent use of the English language. It will make up 30% of the grade. The paper is due on Thursday, November 21, 2002. Plan your work schedule accordingly

D. A reading report which indicates that students have completed all of the assigned readings is due on the day of the final exam. If you have omitted any of the selections, please indicate this specifically in terms of books and page numbers.

6. Please note: this syllabus may be changed, as the professor sees fit, due to academic considerations

7. Office hours are posted each semester on the professor's door (AD 405).

8. Bibliography

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46-50.

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- Mayer, Thomas F. "If Martyrs are to be Exchanged with Martyrs: The Kidnappings of William Tyndale and Reginald Pole." *Archiv fur Reformationsgeschichte* 81 (1990): 286-308.
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